



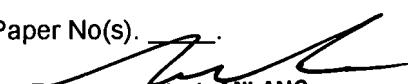
# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,114	08/24/2001	Barry N. Gellman	BSC-128	3367
21323	7590	10/29/2003	EXAMINER	
TESTA, HURWITZ & THIBEAULT, LLP			PANTUCK, BRADFORD C	
HIGH STREET TOWER			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
125 HIGH STREET				
BOSTON, MA 02110			3731	

DATE MAILED: 10/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Advisory Action</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/939,114	GELLMAN ET AL.	
	Examiner Bradford C Pantuck	Art Unit 3731	
<b>--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</b>			
<p>THE REPLY FILED October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2003 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may <u>only</u> be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.</p>			
<b>PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]</b>			
<p>a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires <u>3</u> months from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p> <p>b) <input type="checkbox"/> The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.</p>			
<p><b>ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).</b></p>			
<p>Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).</p>			
<p>1. <input type="checkbox"/> A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.</p>			
<p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:</p>			
<p>(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);</p>			
<p>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);</p>			
<p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or</p>			
<p>(d) <input type="checkbox"/> they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.</p>			
<p>NOTE: <u>See Continuation Sheet</u>.</p>			
<p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____. </p>			
<p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly proposed or amended claim(s) <u>1-19</u> would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).</p>			
<p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> The a)<input type="checkbox"/> affidavit, b)<input type="checkbox"/> exhibit, or c)<input type="checkbox"/> request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: _____. </p>			
<p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.</p>			
<p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a)<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> will not be entered or b)<input type="checkbox"/> will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.</p>			
<p>The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:</p>			
<p>Claim(s) allowed: <u>11-19</u>.</p>			
<p>Claim(s) objected to: <u>9 and 10</u>.</p>			
<p>Claim(s) rejected: <u>1-8 and 20-23</u>.</p>			
<p>Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____. </p>			
<p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is a)a)<input type="checkbox"/> approved or b)<input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner.</p>			
<p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.</p>			
<p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.</p>			
 <b>MICHAEL J. MILANO</b> <b>SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER</b> <b>TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700</b>			

Continuation of 2. NOTE: Claiming that the forward-deploying needle carrier is retractable does not overcome the prior art. Claren discloses a knob (16) that rotates a mechanism within his suturing instrument, allowing the needle to be deployed. For this mechanism to work, either the needle must be pushed forward, or the shaft (15) and needle carrier (19) be retracted. Regardless, a rejection under 35 U.S.C 103 could be made, that it would be obvious to to retract shaft (15) and the needle carrier (19).